

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  IES UTILITIES INC., n/k/a INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY	DOCKET NO. PSA-01-1
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**ORDER CLOSING DOCKET AND NOTICE PURSUANT TO  
IOWA CODE SECTION 476.51**

(Issued August 1, 2003)

On December 13, 2001, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order opening Docket No. PSA-01-1 to review the compliance of IES Utilities Inc., n/k/a Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL), with federal and Board pipeline safety regulations. IPL is a rate-regulated public gas utility that owns and operates natural gas pipelines in Iowa and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board opened the docket because of a significant number of safety violations found on IPL's system during Board staff inspections and in response to information provided by an official of the federal Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety.

On February 19, 2002, IPL began filing monthly progress reports showing the corrective action taken and providing an explanation of why any scheduled corrective action was not completed. On December 23, 2002, IPL filed its last monthly report pursuant to the December 13, 2001, order. On January 21, 2003, the Board issued an order directing IPL to file additional monthly reports on the replacement of defective pre-manufactured steel manifolds until all were replaced and on leak call

responses over 60 minutes for the next six months. The Board indicated that it would decide after the six-month filing whether additional monthly reports were necessary.

On June 23, 2003, IPL filed its sixth monthly report on leak call responses over 60 minutes. In the report, IPL maintained that its leak call response times for each of the six months show that IPL had responded to gas leak call within 60 minutes for 99.3 percent of the calls. IPL also indicated in the report that all of the defective pre-manufactured steel manifolds were replaced as of April 2003.

The Board has reviewed IPL's monthly reports and finds that corrective actions appear to have been taken to bring the number of over 60-minute leak call response times within acceptable limits. IPL has also completed the replacement of the defective steel manifolds. With these actions, the Board finds that IPL has taken the corrective actions necessary to bring it into compliance with federal and Board safety rules. The Board finds that additional monthly filings are not necessary.

The Board considers all violations originally cited in its December 13, 2001, order to be corrected. Since the violations have been corrected, the Board will close this docket. Board staff will continue to monitor IPL's compliance with safety requirements, especially leak call response times. Finally, the Board gave notice to IPL in the "Order Opening Docket And Giving Notice Pursuant To Iowa Code Section 476.51" issued December 13, 2001, of a possible civil penalty action if corrective action was not taken. The Board in the January 21, 2003, "Order Addressing Safety Violations" stated that the Board without further notice could seek statutory civil penalties if IPL fails to continue to comply with federal and Board safety rules. The

Board affirms those statements in this order. Failure to comply with federal and Board safety rules may subject IPL to a civil penalty action without further notice.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. Docket No. PSA-01-1 is closed.
2. IES Utilities Inc., n/k/a Interstate Power and Light Company, is hereby given notice pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code § 476.51 that failure to maintain compliance with federal and Utilities Board gas pipeline safety regulations may result in civil penalty action.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2003.